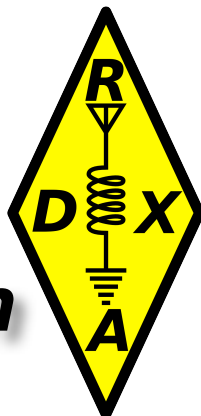
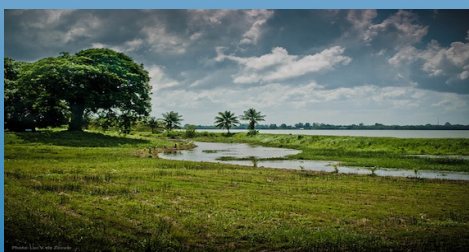


Rochester DX Association



May's Presentation PZ5RO Aruba DXpedition

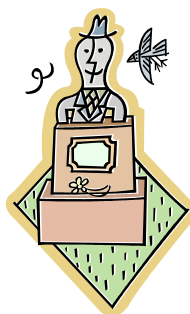
Come meet the PZ5RO team and watch and listen to Dave, WJ2O, Redd, AI2N and Ken, N2ZN on the planning and operation of their island DXpedition.



**May 15 @ 7:30pm
Monroe County EMO**

The Podium

Paul Jason Kolacki, K2FX



If you have not been on HF lately, you're missing some spectacular DX activity. There is plenty out there to work, including some needed DX entities like 706T in Yemen. Sure the pile-ups are huge, and the lids are out in full-force, but with a little persistence you can make the contact. It's a great time to be radio-active! Speaking of radio-active,

some of our own members have been doing just that, but from the other side of the pile-ups. Let me explain!

On May 15th, Dave, WJ2O, Redd, AI2N and Ken, N2ZN will be presenting pictures and videos that they took on the PZ5RO DXpedition from earlier this year. There is much that goes into planning such an event, but fortunately experience abounds in this club, and you'll get a good idea what it takes to successfully accomplish what these guys did. Maybe it will spur some thoughts for future DXpeditions that some of you will want to undertake. In any event, I promise that it will be interesting, and well worth the trip out to the meeting, so please come and join us!

We'll also be talking more in depth about Field Day 2012. W3OAB and N2CK are the Co-Chairmen, and we'll begin to get an idea of what they are planning. Much discussion seems to happen around this time each year about how to best approach Field Day. This year I believe we will

be quite well prepared as the results of recent club surveys will help to dictate the approach we take. If you love Field Day as I do, and want to be actively involved, then please come out to the meeting and contribute to the discussion. Field Day 2012 will be here before you know it!

Elections will also be taking place in June for the ensuing year. If you are interested in running for a Board of Directors position, or would like to be considered for one of the appointed jobs, please let either Bill Rogers, K2TER, or Ed Gable K2MP know. They will be sure to get you on the ballot.

Finally, I said it last month, and I'll say it again! You pay your dues, so why not stop by and participate in the monthly meetings? We love to see old and new faces alike. RDXA meets at the EOC Building on Scottsville Road on the 3rd Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:30PM. A pre-meeting

dinner will take place at the Anchor Sports Bar in the Marketplace Mall, directly across from the Wegmans on Hylan Drive beginning around 5:30PM. The 145.110 repeater is our official talk-in and information spot. If you have any questions, give a shout and someone will be there to assist you! Until next month, good DX and Best 73's. I hope to see you all on May 15th!



From the RDXA Secretary

Fellow RDXA Members:

It is apparent through the large participation in the recent survey that the membership is engaged in the pursuit of making the club better! This will take a lot of effort and if you feel you can spare some time to help plan and roll out the proposed improvements please consider throwing your hat in the ring for a board or officer position. At our annual business meeting we will hold elections for the board of directors and the officers will be selected by that group.

This year, following positions are open:

9 BoD seats
President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

If you would like to nominate someone (including yourself) or find out more about these positions please contact a member of the nomination committee:

Bill Rogers, K2TER
Mark Hazel, K2MTH
Ed Gable, K2MP
Dave Wright, N2CK

I hope you consider volunteering for a board or officer position!

73,
Bill Rogers, K2TER
RDXA Secretary and Director.

KE2WK Award

For those of you that were not able to attend the RDXA/RVHFG banquet last month, you certainly missed a great event featuring some great food, the always present camaraderie and comedic bantering that makes our RDXA gatherings special and of course some great award presentations. I am always amazed at the operating awards and some of the point totals that our members garnish over the course of the contest year. To me they demonstrate just what kind of talent and skill some of our contesting members are capable of, year after year. These operators put our 'little' club up on a level with some pretty well known national clubs by posting some pretty amazing scores and placing in the top slots or even winning categories in some of the biggest contests. That is some of what is amazing about RDXA to me.

We now have over 80 members who are active in every aspect of

ham radio in one form or another. We have over the years (65 of them now!) contributed greatly to the art and technology of DXing, contesting, operating and all things ham related. Our ranks hold a plethora of radio expertise, general knowledge and exceptional technical skill that few other radio clubs can demonstrate.

This is why I was totally blown away when I was honored with the KE2WK memorial award at our banquet. I was literally speechless. How could I be honored with this distinction? I am just a budding part time contesteer. I don't have a great station and my antenna farm needs work. I don't even have DXCC! (but they're in the log!) Since I have been a member of RDXA I have always tried to help out and contribute to the club in my own small way. When I try to remember when I first joined RDXA, the year escapes me but I do remember the callsigns that helped and encouraged me way back then when I first moved

here from Connecticut. K2FR, K2CS, AF2K, K2DB and countless others. The .79 gang. There were so many. When I look at the beautiful plaque I was presented with I see so many of them listed there. I am truly honored to have been selected for this unique distinction and be placed in the company of such a great group of hams.

I encourage all of you to help me recognize the importance of this award and help make RDXA even better. I look forward to helping to select one of you to receive this award next year. It will be an honor that I will look forward to. I thank all of you who thought me worthy of this prestigious honor, I will do my best to live up to the high standards you all have set before me.

Best DX and 73z,

Doug

N2BEG

ROC City Net

**The premier HF net from
Upstate New York**

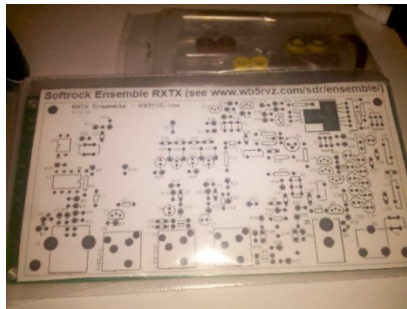
**Every Wednesday at
8:00 PM (0000 UTC) @
3825KHz +/- Join Us!**

One bag contained the toroids, magnet wire and other assorted parts.



One bubble pack bag contained the hardware usb connector, power connector(s) and other assorted parts.

The bag that contained the circuit board also had a small piece of paper on the back of the board that showed the parts positioning on the board. It also was titled: **Softrock Ensemble RXTX** (see www.wb5rvz.com/sdr/ensemble/)



The first thing I did at this point was to log onto the internet and go to the above link. This brings you to a page titled: **Ensemble RXTX Project** with many links on the top of the page and a project introduction.

It is very important, in fact I would say - mandatory to read this entire **Project Introduction** page from top to bottom, do not skip anything. Read it all, understand it (if you can) and click on the video links for soldering, etc. I consider myself an expert in building these and other projects that require knowledge of kit building and soldering techniques, and I am still learning new tricks and asking people what do you do in a certain situation. (Thanks to Andy K0SM for answering many of my soldering technique queries.) This is definitely not a "Heath kit", it takes some knowledge and knowhow to complete a kit of this complexity. So if I did not make myself clear, read the entire page before you do anything else. If it all seems to be "above your head" or you do not feel confident to proceed; **"DON'T attempt it"**, you will only make yourself frustrated and ruin what should be a fun experience. Having a finished product that does not work is the ultimate in frustration, now you have to admit you made a mistake somewhere, and ask someone else to help you find and fix the mistake. I like to stay out of that arena if I possibly can. Start out with one of the smaller SDR Receiver kits first, they are not nearly as complex and tiny as this advanced transceiver kit is.

Now that you have taken the time to read the page, you most likely learned how these transceivers work, and what each stage actually does, what the schematic looks like, what the top and bottom of the unassembled board looks like (in color), how parts are placed (parts placement), and what the completed kit looks like (top and bottom views of the board), etc.

This is what I did, and as an experienced builder of many of these SDR kits; I went to the top of the page and clicked on the link titled: **Inventory** which took me to: <http://www.wb5rvz.com/sdr/ensemble/Inventory.htm>

This page is titled **Ensemble RXTX Inventories**, I use Firefox for an internet browser, so I clicked on the upper left **File** tab and selected **Print**. This printed out 3 pages in list form of every part in the kit.

Now is the time to have patience and to open one bag at a time, identify each and every part and check it off on the inventory sheets that you printed. If you do not know what part you are looking at, go back to: <http://www.wb5rvz.com/sdr/ensemble/> click on the **Bill of Materials** link to: <http://www.wb5rvz.com/sdr/ensemble/>

[00_bom.htm](#) and scroll down through the pages; it will show you a pictorial of the various parts, how to identify them and other important information.

Now, inventory all of the parts and figure out a way to keep them separated and labeled. Make sure you label each part when you identify it and know where you placed it. It is a real inconvenience (other words like a PIA come to mind) to identify the part and not label it, or know where you put it. It is a big waste of time to try and find an unidentified part that you have previously identified when the instructions tell you to place it on the board.

You will need a really good high powered and lighted magnifying glass to identify the capacitors and resistors. Here is a trick I use, and it saves hours of time and my eyesight at the same time: When you inventory the teeny weenie resistors, use a digital ohm meter and read the value directly. Label it and place it in a cardboard slot, or into a piece of foam, cross check back and forth the inventory sheet until you have them all labeled and separated. When that is done, do a final inventory of the resistors and see if you have the right number of resistors for each value listed. If you don't, just recheck the missing values with other values. You may have put a 2.2 ohm resistor in a place for a 2.21 K or a 22.1 ohm resistor. It will become apparent what I am talking about, unless you didn't make a mistake and it all came out perfect. Also remember, the ohm meter will not read every value perfectly with the inventory sheet, a close value is usually the right value due to the % of tolerance of the resistor value.

Be careful two of the components in the resistor bag are actually diodes they look just like a tiny resistor.

I do the resistors first, because they are the easiest to identify. When I finished my resistor inventory, I found I was missing one - 100K - 1/6 watt - resistor. **Please Note: R-Test (100k 1/6W) test resistor is NOT included in the kit as shipped.** Here is a picture of how I separated and labeled the resistors for later use.

Next I identified the diodes, placed them into the Styrofoam and labeled them.

Next I identified the transistors, placed them into the Styrofoam and labeled them.

Next I identified IC-DIP8, IC-DIP4 and 8 pin socket, placed them into the Styrofoam and labeled them.

Now I go on to identifying and labeling the capacitors. I use a high powered lighted magnifying glass for identifying the tiny capacitors. If the capacitors do not have a little piece of tape or cardboard attached to the leads, I write the value on the Styrofoam and stick it in the Styrofoam. This takes patience and really good eyes. Open the capacitor bag and continue:

All of the tiny SMT 1206 surface mount capacitors come in a taped packaging form, 11 capacitors to a strip. One strip has clear tape on itself, this is the .01uf strip. Two strips have clear tape on them, with a black stripe down one side of the clear tape this is the .1uf strip. I placed these in a plastic container.

All of the capacitors that have cardboard like paper on the bottom of the leads I identify with a high powered magnifying glass and write both the value and the code on the paper. I place these in a plastic container.

There are 17 of the 10uf/16VDC electrolytic capacitors that are all the same. I do not waste time putting them on the Styrofoam; I just placed them loose in the plastic container.

I opened the bag containing the toroids, magnet wire and other assorted parts.

Note that the binocular cores are of two different types (type 43 and type 61). They have *NO distinguishing markings* and come in the kit in two separate bags. To be safe, you should decide which type to mark and then place an identifying marking (or piece of tape) on the binocular cores of the selected type just in case the cores get mixed up. **Once they are out of their bags, you can easily get them mixed up!.**

There is one small bag marked 3 - BN-61. These are Binocular core inductors; I just inventory these 3 parts, **leave them in the bag** and put the bag in a plastic container until it is called for in the instructions. DO NOT open this bag, as the parts have NO MARKINGS on them (none).

There is one small bag marked 5 - BN-43. These are Binocular core inductors; I just inventory these 5 parts, **leave them in the bag** and put the bag in a plastic container until it is called for in the instructions. DO NOT open this bag, as the parts have NO MARKINGS on them (none).

I found two small coils of enameled magnet wire in the bag. I could not find the wire on the inventory sheet, so I just placed them in the plastic container. I am sure that somewhere in the instructions, they will point out the use of this wire in the winding of the coils and inductors.

I found the Heat sink TO-18 for the driver transistor and placed it in the plastic container.

I found a plastic bag with 14 toroid coils, some yellow, some red and two different diameter sizes. I just marked the inventory sheet that there are 14 of these and I just placed them (unopened) in the plastic container. I am sure that somewhere in the instructions, they will point out the use of these toroids in the winding of the coils and inductors.

One bag contained two heat sinks and various nut, bolts and lock washers. I just inventory these parts, leave them in the bag and put the bag in a plastic container until it is called for in the instructions.

One bubble pack bag containing the hardware usb connector, power connector(s) and other assorted parts was opened and inventoried. I put the parts in the plastic container until it is called for in the instructions.

Open the bag containing the circuit board and remove the pink plastic bag containing transistors and IC's. I just put this bag aside. Several of the parts are so small; I decided to just leave them in there until they are called for in the building instructions. I just do not want to lose any parts, they are too tiny to put in the Styrofoam or mix with other parts.

Now, if you feel comfortable, start building your Ensemble RXTX Project. If you are not comfortable, either ask for help, or make the decision on selling the kit. Do not get started and then make the decision, partially completed projects of this type are not very popular for resale. No one wants to troubleshoot bad soldering or poor workmanship in a project with components this small.

I am off the starting my project; I will go to http://www.wb5rvz.com/sdr/ensemble/01_ps.htm plug in my soldering iron, clean off the work surface and start my kit.

Best of luck,

Paul K2DB



I found this in my Dad's ham stuff when cleaning out the basement. Back when Hygain was in Nebraska prior to MFJ acquiring them.

— Doug, N2BEG

Spring Time Is Antenna Time.

It's not much but this is the freshly rebuilt TH3 (circa ~1978) at the QTH of N2BEG. After that many years the aluminum can be severely degraded as mine was. It lost an element in the wind storms last fall and once it was down, I found out that the boom itself was not long from complete failure. I replaced that, along with the balun and all electrical connections, some element ends, cleaned out the traps and tightened everything. Ready for another 20 years? Probably not... but I'm working on tempting fate with a robust 2 element quad design (!)...stay tuned.

— Doug, N2BEG



Annual Meeting Elections — June, 2012

Nominate and vote for next year's Board of Directors

List of Candidates to Date:

Lynn Bisha – W2BSN
Larry Brightenfield – W2LB
Mark Hazel – K2MTH
Brent Hungate – KC2QLJ
Andrew Lesny – N3LZG
Dan Guyor – N2DD
Bill Rogers – K2TER
Doug Stewart – N2BEG

VHF Contesting Preparations

Ken Kent, KA2LIM

It is time for those of you who have connections with your local clubs, (other than the VHF/UHF clubs and regular operators on these bands) to start talking up the June VHF contest. Get the info into the local club news letters for May and June. Check into the weekly nets and start talking up the contest and encourage those who have FM only to get on the simplex frequencies to make contacts and find out how far you can communicate with simplex only. (Check the KA2LIM/K2LIM website www.ka2lim.com for the FM simplex frequencies used)

Encourage others to get together and make contacts (make some VHF/HF DX Grid Qs!) during the contest even if they only have one or two bands. i.e.: 6M, and/or 2M and/or 432/440. Perhaps at the local club station or someone's home or a hilltop and operate from a vehicle or set up a portable station at some convenient location. Rovers, invite someone new to go out with you to see how it is done and get them started.

If you know someone who you want to encourage in VHF/UHF-ing, invite them to come and operate with you or just visit your station. Or, you can visit the K2LIM contest station in June, located in FN12mg. We have room for vehicles to park and I think we can even give them something to eat along with an introduction as to how far you can reach with a variety of antennas on 6 thru 432. (We might even have the microwave bands operational) Contact Ken – ka2lim@arrl.net for more info.

Don't forget to turn in a log, even if one Q!

For further information on weak signal (VHF/UHF), feel free to contact anyone in the RVHFG via the website www.rvhfg.org or email: ka2lim@arrl.net or visit the website www.ka2lim.com

VHF/UHF Contest Calendar for 2012

9-10 June VHF QSO Party

21-23 July CQWW VHF

4-5 August UHF Contest

8-10 September VHF QSO Party

Details and rules can be found on the ARRL website www.arrl.org and the CQ Amateur Radio website www.cq-amateur-radio.com .

Join in the fun on the VHF/ UHF bands.

Ken

KA2LIM

Outdoor Indoor **HAMFEST** Orleans County Amateur Radio Club

Gates Open 6AM for Vendors 8AM for Public

**Saturday
August
11, 2012**

**Ridgeway Fire
Hall
11392 Ridge Rd.**



Door Prizes
TEN TEC FG-01 Analyzer
Wouxun KGUV1P/4

Serving Breakfast Sandwich & Coffee \$3
Hotdog or Burger Fries & Drink \$4
VE Testing \$15 starting at 9AM

Kids under 16
Free
With paying adult

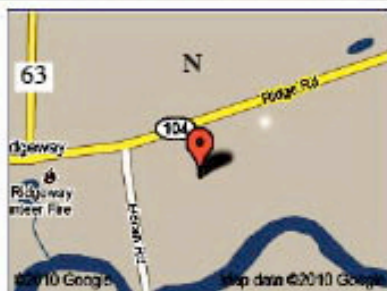
**Large Outside Flea Market
(Indoor if Rain)**

\$5 Admission
Includes Outside Flea
\$5 Indoor Tables

Forums

Contesting
RTTY
PSK31

Paved Hamfest Area
Paved Parking
5K Sq.Ft. Indoor



Directions
From Buffalo, Rt.78N
to Rt.104E

From West RT.104E
From East RT.104W
to Horan Rd Entrance
Talk-in: 145.270



Contact Terry Cook,

KC2JKU (585)589-6362

kc2jku@ocarc.us

Rochester DX Association

W2RDX rdx.com

This Bulletin is the official publication of the Rochester DX Association and is published monthly, September through June. Email your articles, tidbits, ham ads, etc. to Andrew, N3LZG at alesny@rochester.rr.com by the second Tuesday of the month for inclusion in that month's issue.

All those with an interest in amateur radio and DXing and contesting are cordially invited to any meeting and to join RDXA. Meetings are held at 19:30 Local time on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, September through June.

PresidentPaul Kolacki – K2FX K2FX@arri.net

Vice President Mark Hazel – K2MTH mthazel2151@yahoo.com

TreasurerIrv Goodman – AF2K af2k@juno.com

SecretaryBill Rogers – K2TER k2ter@rochester.rr.com

Board of Directors

Larry Brightenfield – W2LBbrighten@rochester.rr.com

Doug Stewart – N2BEGdoug.stewart@itcmems.com

Lynn Bisha – W2BSNlbisha@rochester.rr.com

Chris Shalvoy – K2CSchris@k2cs.net

Andrew Lesny – N3LZGalesny@rochester.rr.com

Bill Rogers – K2TERk2ter@rochester.rr.com

Paul Mackanos – K2DBk2db@k2db.com

Brent Hungate – KC2QLJbrenthungate@yahoo.com

Appointed Positions

DX Chairman.....Chris Shalvoy, K2CS
 Packet Cluster Sys OpBob Hunter, NG2P
 WebmasterPaul Mackanos, K2DB
Larry Brightenfield, W2LB
 Contest Chairman.....Ken Boasi, N2ZN
 Membership ChairmanBrent Hungate, KC2QLJ
 Newsletter EditorAndrew Lesny, N3LZG
 Packet Cluster.....144.910MHz
Telnet: ng2p.ham-radio-op.net/port7300

Membership Dues can be sent to:

Brent Hungate
 267 Terrace Park
 Rochester, NY 14619

Regular Membership	\$20.00
Family Membership	\$5.00
Full-Time Student	\$5.00
Lifetime Membership	\$200.00

Any other correspondence to: Irv Goodman, AF2K



Don't forget the pre-meeting dinner and social

ANCHOR SPORTS BAR

MARKETPLACE MALL, HENRIETTA, NY

270 Miracle Dr., Henrietta NY 14623

585-272-9333

It is directly across from Wegman's (on the west side of the street) in the marketplace mall.

Professional Home Inspection



Paul Mackanos – K2DB
 20 Sumac Way
 Fairport, NY 14450



800.822.7579
 585.223.4230